

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

USIA-06 ACDA-05 /073 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA/RJMARTENS/MJ

APPROVED BY EA - PHILIP C. HABIB

EA/PHL - EHULEN (DRAFT)

NSC - TBARNES

EUR/SOV - BZOOK (DRAFT)

EA - RMILLER

S/S - FORTIZ

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R 022202Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR (SEATO)

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SUBJECT: ROMULO'S STATEMENT AT SEATO COUNCIL

REF: USUN 4467

1. ALTHOUGH ROMULO EVENTUALLY ACCEDED TO HIS DESIRES TO RETAIN MANILA PACT WHILE "PHASING OUT" SEATO ORGANIZATION AT SEPTEMBER 24 SEATO COUNCIL MEETING, HE DID, AS NOTED IN REFTEL DELIVER FIRST A STRONG STATEMENT OF PHILIPPINE BELIEF THAT MANILA PACT IS ANACHRONISTIC AND SHOULD BE TERMINATED AS WELL.

2. MOST INTERESTING ARGUMENT BY ROMULO FOLLOWED A HISTORICAL REVIEW ON PAST VALUE OF SEATO AS PART OF CONTAINMENT SYSTEM DURING PERIOD WHEN CONTAINMENT WAS REALLY NEEDED. NOTING THAT SEATO WAS EASTERNMOST ALLIANCE GROUPING, ROMULO CITED CENTO AND NATO AS OTHER PARTS OF SAME SYSTEM. NATO AND CENTO WERE TARGETED AGAINST USSR WHILE SEATO WAS PRIMARILY DIRECTED AGAINST PRC DURING PERIOD WHEN SOVIETS AND CHINESE WERE CLOSELY LINKED. NATO AND CENTO CONTINUED TO HAVE VALIDITY, ACCORDING TO ROMULO ARGUMENT, SINCE THEY WERE PROTECTION AGAINST USSR

BUT SEATO DID NOT SINCE PRC COULD NOW BE CONSIDERED PART OF CONTAINMENT SYSTEM AGAINST SOVIETS AND, IN ANY CASE, WAS REGARDED BY PHILIPPINES AS NOT POSING AGGRESSIVE THREAT TO REGION.

3. COMMENT: WHILE ABOVE ARGUMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN PARTLY MOTIVATED BY THEIR CONVENIENCE AS SUPPORTING LOGIC FOR PHILIPPINE ARGUMENTS ON MANILA PACT AND SEATO, THEY MAY ALSO SUGGEST PHILIPPINES WILL SHOW GREAT CAUTION IN NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE235354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RA/RJMARTENS/MJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750343-0097
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751090/aaaadcwo.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMULO'S STATEMENT AT SEATO COUNCIL
TAGS: PFOR, RP, NATO, SEATO, (ROMULO, CARLOS P)
To: MANILA MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006